

Rocky Flats Community Advisory

Date: 3/29/00

CA: 23-00

CONTROLLED BURN PLANNED FOR ROCKY FLATS BUFFER ZONE

As discussed in Monday's, March 27, 2000, public meeting, DOE is planning to implement a test burn in the western section of Unit 4 of the Buffer Zone, as identified in the Prescribed Burn Plan. The test burn is planned for Saturday, April 1, 2000, weather permitting. If the weather does not cooperate for Saturday, the Site is considering Sunday, April 2, or Monday, April 3, 2000 to conduct the test. The test burn will be conducted under prescription conditions by the U. S. Forest Service, according to the Prescribed Burn Plan distributed to the community.

The test burn will be conducted for up to one hour of active burning, after initial preparation, to allow adequate air monitoring time to collect sufficient samples for analysis. Air samples collected upwind and downwind of the test burn area will be screened for radiological activity. Results of the analyses will be made available to the public as soon as possible (3 days). The size of the test burn may range from 10 to 50 acres, depending on fuel moisture and weather conditions.

DOE will inform neighboring landowners, businesses and government entities the day of the test burn that conditions are right to proceed. Should weather conditions not meet the specifications within the burn plan, the test burn will be extinguished immediately.

The primary objectives for the proposed overall burn are to clear dead undergrowth, to reduce the potential for an uncontrolled prairie fire and to improve the overall condition of the prairie ecosystem. Grass fires of this type are low-fuel burning and do not produce dark, dense smoke. Air, soil, and vegetation monitoring will be conducted before, during, and after the burn. Monitoring results will be made available to the public as soon as the results are received.

You are welcome to call our Community Advisory line (303) 966-7300 for current information regarding the test burn.

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